

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for selecting a power source for a shaft-driven device from two or more available power sources, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the shaft-driven device connected to the two or more available power sources via one or more couplings and one or more drive shafts, wherein the two or more available power sources comprise two or more mechanical sources selected from the group consisting of one or more engines, one or more motors, one or more motor/generators and one or more turbines;

(a) analyzing market and operational data related to the two or more available power sources, and the shaft-driven device;

(b) selecting the power source for the shaft-driven device from the two or more available power sources based on a set of financial parameters; and

(c) whenever the shaft-driven device is not already connected to the selected power source, (1) determining (i) whether it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source based on a projected potential revenue and a projected cost associated with switching to the selected power source, a time period and one or more guidelines, and (ii) whether a user has overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source, and (2) sending one or more signals to the one or more couplings to physically switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source whenever it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source and the user has not overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of updating a display.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving market and operational data related to the two or more available power sources, and the shaft-driven device.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating steps (a), (b) and (c).

Claim 7 (original): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are periodically repeated.

Claim 8 (original): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are repeated whenever new market or operational data related to the two or more available power sources is received.

Claim 9 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the market and operational data is selected from the group consisting of historical operating data, current operating data, contract data, market data and financial data.

Claim 10 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the set of financial parameters comprises one or more operating models.

Claim 11 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the set of financial parameters includes operational cost data, switching cost data, minimum return, projections, market buy/sell prices, contract buy/sell prices, fuel costs, electricity costs, target demand, maximum demand, minimum connect times for each available power source, maximum switching cycle over a specified period of time, emission limits, audible noise limits or user input data.

Claim 12 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more signals are sent via computer network, a communications network, a wireless communications link, a direct connection or combination thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more signals are manually sent or implemented.

Claims 14-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the shaft-driven device is selected from the group consisting of a shaft-driven compressor and a shaft-driven pump.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the two or more available power sources and the shaft-driven device comprise a multi-source system.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 18, wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are performed for two or more multi-source systems.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the multi-source system comprises:

- a first and second power source;
- a first switch or coupling selectively connecting the first power source to the device or delivery point;
- a second switch or coupling selectively connecting the second power source to the device or delivery point; and
- a multi-source control system that monitors and/or controls the first power source, the second power source, the first switch or coupling, the second switch or coupling and the device or delivery point.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

- the two or more available power sources comprise a second network connection, one or more electricity sources, and a combination of the second network connection and the one or more electricity sources;
- one or more electricity transfer devices are connected to the one or more electricity sources; and
- the device or delivery point comprises one or more third network connections, the one or more third network connections connected to the second network connection and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of determining whether provide electricity from the one or more electricity sources to a first network connection connected to the one or more electricity sources and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the one or more electricity transfer devices is selected from the group consisting of one or more phase-shifting transformers, one or more static transfer devices and one or more motor-generator packages.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the first network connection and the second network connection are equivalent metering points connected to an electricity transmission network.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the one or more third network connections are electricity distribution feeders.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

- the device or delivery point comprises a machine;
- the two or more available power sources comprise an engine and a motor/generator;
- the engine coupled to the machine; and
- the motor/generator coupled to the machine and an electrical network connection.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the engine is selected from the group comprising a turbine and a variable speed engine.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the engine is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the motor/generator is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An apparatus for selecting a power source for a shaft-driven device from two or more available power sources comprising:

a user interface;

a market interface;

a multi-source interface comprising one or more interfaces to the two or more available power sources, and the shaft-driven device;

a database;

a processor communicably coupled to the user interface, the market interface, the multi-source interface and the database, wherein the processor (a) analyzes market and operational data related to the two or more available power sources and the shaft-driven device, (b) selects the power source for the shaft-driven device from the two or more available power sources based on a set of financial parameters and (c) whenever the shaft-driven device is not already connected to the selected power source, (1) determines (i) whether it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source based on a projected potential revenue and a projected cost associated with switching to the selected power source, a time period and one or more guidelines and (ii) whether a user has overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source, and (2) sends one or more signals via the multi-source interface to the one or more couplings to physically switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source whenever it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source and the user has not overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source; and

wherein the shaft-driven device is connected to the two or more available power sources via one or more couplings and one or more drive shafts, wherein the two or more available power sources comprise two or more mechanical sources selected from the group consisting of one or more engines, one or more motors, one or more motor/generators and one or more turbines.

Claims 31-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the processor updates a display via the user interface.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the processor receives market data via the market interface, and operational data from the multi-source interface or the database.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the multi-source interface comprises a multi-source control system.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein:
the processor monitors and controls the two or more available power sources, and the device via the multi-source interface.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the processor periodically repeats the analysis and selection process.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 36, wherein the processor repeats the analysis and selection process whenever new market or operational data related to the two or more available power sources is received.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the market and operational data is selected from the group consisting of historical operating data, current operating data, contract data, market data or financial data.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the set of financial parameters comprises one or more operating models.

Claim 41 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the set of financial parameters includes operational cost data, switching cost data, minimum return, projections, market buy/sell prices, contract buy/sell prices, fuel costs, electricity costs, target demand, maximum demand, minimum connect times for each available power source, maximum switching cycle over a specified period of time, emission limits, audible noise limits or user input data.

Claim 42 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the one or more signals are sent via computer network, a communications network, a wireless communications link, a direct connection or combination thereof.

Claim 43 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the one or more signals are manually sent or implemented.

Claims 44-46 (canceled)

Claim 47 (previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the shaft-driven device is selected from the group consisting of a shaft-driven compressor and a shaft-driven pump.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the two or more available power sources and the shaft-driven device comprise a multi-source system.

Claim 49 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the processor performs the analysis and selection process for two or more multi-source systems.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 49, wherein the multi-source system comprises:

- a first and second power source;
- a first switch or coupling selectively connecting the first power source to the device or delivery point;
- a second switch or coupling selectively connecting the second power source to the device or delivery point; and
- a multi-source control system that monitors and/or controls the first power source, the second power source, the first switch or coupling, the second switch or coupling and the device or delivery point.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein:

- the two or more available power sources comprise a second network connection, one or more electricity sources, and a combination of the second network connection and the one or more electricity sources;
- one or more electricity transfer devices are connected to the one or more electricity sources; and
- the device or delivery point comprises one or more third network connections, the one or more third network connections connected to the second network connection and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 51, wherein the processor determines whether to provide electricity from the one or more electricity sources to a first network connection connected to the one or more electricity sources and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 51, wherein the one or more electricity transfer devices is selected from the group consisting of one or more phase-shifting transformers, one or more static transfer devices and one or more motor-generator packages.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 51, wherein the first network connection and the second network connection are equivalent metering points connected to an electricity transmission network.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 51, wherein the one or more third network connections are electricity distribution feeders.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein:

- the device or delivery point comprises a machine;
- the two or more available power sources comprise an engine and a motor/generator;
- the engine is coupled to the machine; and
- the motor/generator is coupled to the machine and an electrical network connection.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 56, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of a compressor and a pump.

Claim 58 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 56, wherein the engine is selected from the group comprising a turbine and a variable speed engine.

Claim 59 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 56, wherein the engine is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 60 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 56, wherein the motor/generator is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 61 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein:

- the device or delivery point comprises a machine;
- the two or more available power sources comprise an engine and a motor/generator;
- the engine is coupled to the motor/generator; and
- the motor/generator is coupled to the machine and an electrical network connection.

Claim 62 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 61, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of a compressor and a pump.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 61, wherein the engine is selected from the group comprising a turbine and a variable speed engine.

Claim 64 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 61, wherein the engine is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 61, wherein the motor/generator is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executed by a processor for selecting a power source for a shaft-driven device from two or more available power sources, the computer program comprising:

- a code segment for analyzing market and operational data related to the two or more available power sources, and the shaft-driven device;

- a code segment for selecting the power source for the shaft-driven device from the two or more available power sources based on a set of financial parameters;

- a code segment for whenever the shaft-driven device is not already connected to the selected power source, (1) determining (i) whether it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source based on a projected potential revenue and a projected cost associated with switching to the selected power source, a time period and one or more guidelines and (ii) whether a user has overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source, and (2) sending one or more signals to the one or more couplings to physically switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source whenever it is profitable to switch the shaft-driven device to the selected power source and the user has not overridden switching the shaft-driven device to the selected power source; and

- wherein the shaft-driven device is connected to the two or more available power sources via one or more couplings and one or more drive shafts, wherein the two or more available power sources comprise two or more mechanical sources selected from the group consisting of one or more engines, one or more motors, one or more motor/generators and one or more turbines.

Claims 67-68 (canceled)

Claim 69 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, further comprising a code segment for updating a display.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The computer program as recited in claim 66, further comprising a code segment for receiving market and operational data related to the two or more available power sources, and the shaft-driven device.

Claim 71 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, further comprising a code segment for repeating the analysis, selecting and sending processes.

Claim 72 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 71, wherein the analysis, selecting and sending processes are periodically repeated.

Claim 73 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 71, wherein the analysis, selecting and sending processes are repeated whenever new market or operational data related to the two or more available power sources is received.

Claim 74 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the market and operational data is selected from the group consisting of historical operating data, current operating data, contract data, market data and financial data.

Claim 75 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the set of financial parameters comprises one or more operating models.

Claim 76 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the set of financial parameters includes operational cost data, switching cost data, minimum return, projections, market buy/sell prices, contract buy/sell prices, fuel costs, electricity costs, target demand, maximum demand, minimum connect times for each available power source, maximum switching cycle over a specified period of time, emission limits, audible noise limits or user input data.

Claim 77 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the one or more signals are sent via computer network, a communications network, a wireless communications link, a direct connection or combination thereof.

Claim 78 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the one or more signals are manually sent or implemented.

Claims 79-81 (canceled)

Claim 82 (previously presented): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the shaft-driven device is selected from the group consisting of a shaft-driven compressor and a shaft-driven pump.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein the two or more available power sources and the shaft-driven device comprise a multi-source system.

Claim 84 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 83, wherein the analysis, selection and sending processes are performed for two or more multi-source systems.

Claim 85 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 83, wherein the multi-source system comprises:

- a first and second power source;
- a first switch or coupling selectively connecting the first power source to the device or delivery point;
- a second switch or coupling selectively connecting the second power source to the device or delivery point; and
- a multi-source control system that monitors and/or controls the first power source, the second power source, the first switch or coupling, the second switch or coupling and the device or delivery point.

Claim 86 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein:

- the two or more available power sources comprise a second network connection, one or more electricity sources, and a combination of the second network connection and the one or more electricity sources;
- one or more electricity transfer devices are connected to the one or more electricity sources; and
- the device or delivery point comprises one or more third network connections, the one or more third network connections connected to the second network connection and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 87 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 86, further comprising a code segment for determining whether to provide electricity from the one or more electricity sources to a first network connection connected to the one or more electricity sources and the one or more electricity transfer devices.

Claim 88 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 86, wherein the one or more electricity transfer devices is selected from the group consisting of one or more phase-shifting transformers, one or more static transfer devices and one or more motor-generator packages.

Claim 89 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 86, wherein the first network connection and the second network connection are equivalent metering points connected to an electricity transmission network.

Claim 90 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 86, wherein the one or more third network connections are electricity distribution feeders.

Claim 91 (withdrawn): A computer program as recited in claim 66, wherein:
the device or delivery point comprises a machine;
the two or more available power sources comprise an engine and a motor/generator;
the engine coupled to the machine; and
the motor/generator coupled to the machine and an electrical network connection.

Claim 92 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 91, wherein the engine is selected from the group comprising a turbine and a variable speed engine.

Claim 93 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 91, wherein the engine is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.

Claim 94 (withdrawn): The computer program as recited in claim 91, wherein the motor/generator is coupled to the machine with a clutch, a coupling or a gearbox.